

# PRAYING THE NAMES OF JESUS AT CHRISTMAS



Excerpted from *Praying the Names of God for 52 Weeks, Expanded Edition: A Year-Long Bible Study* by Ann Spangler



## IMMANUEL

עִמָּנוּ-אֵל  
IMMANU-EL

Ἐμμανουήλ  
EMMANOUE



All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: "The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him **Immanuel**," which means "God is with us."

—Matthew 1:22-23

## LIGHT OF THE WORLD

τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου  
TO PHOS TOU KOSMOU



**Yeshua** spoke to the Pharisees again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark."

—John 8:12

## CHILD

יְלֵד  
YELED  
παῖς  
PAIS



So Joseph went from Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a Judean city called Bethlehem. Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there. Joseph went there to register with Mary. She had been promised to him in marriage and was pregnant.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn't any room for them in the inn.

—Luke 2:4-7

## I AM

ἐγώ εἰμι  
EHYEH or EGO EIMI



When Jesus was being attacked by the religious leaders who failed to recognize him as the Messiah, he shocked them not by claiming to be the Messiah but by identifying himself with Yahweh, saying: "Before Abraham was born, **I Am**." (Ego Eimi)

- John 8:58

**A note from the author Ann Spangler**

## **Why Pray the Names of Jesus at Christmas?**

More than 700 years before the birth of Jesus, a Jewish prophet spoke a promise to people who were living in deep darkness, oppressed by the brutal Assyrian Empire. To this demoralized and confused group he proclaimed: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel....For unto us a child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 7: 14; 9: 6, NKJV)

Christmas reminds us that part of Isaiah’s prophecy has already come true. But there’s more ahead and that’s what Advent is also about—preparing our hearts for the more that is yet to happen. While we ready ourselves to commemorate the birth of Jesus, we also look forward to his Second Coming, to that moment when every promise God has made will burst into view and we will bask in God’s light forever.

Though we have seen that light, there is still plenty of darkness to contend with. Wars and rumors of wars. Personal sorrows and hurts from which we have yet to recover. Anxiety and fear that plagues some of us all the time and afflicts all of us some of the time. There are also scars from our own sins and failures. Advent can become for us that season in which we lean forward through the darkness to reach toward the light that comes from God. A time in which grace can lead us through deep repentance to even deeper joy as we receive God’s forgiveness and generous affirmations of his love.

I hope this small 4-week or 4-day Bible study, which focuses on four of the names of Jesus—*Immanuel, Child, Light of the World, and I Am*—will help bring focus to your observance of Christmas so that you will be able to dwell on the goodness of God and all that he has promised.



# IMMANUEL

עִמָּנוּ-אֵל

IMMANU-EL

Ἐμμανουήλ

EMMANOUEL

The name *Immanuel* appears twice in the Hebrew Scriptures and once in the New Testament. One of the most comforting of all the names and titles of Jesus, it is literally translated “with us is God” or, as Matthew’s Gospel puts it, “God with us.” When our sins made it impossible for us to come to him, God took the outrageous step of coming to us, of making himself susceptible to sorrow, familiar with temptation, and vulnerable to sin’s disruptive power in order to cancel its claim. In Jesus we see how extreme God’s love is. Remember this the next time you feel discouraged, abandoned, or too timid to undertake some new endeavor. For Jesus is still Immanuel—he is still “God with us.”

## KEY SCRIPTURE

All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: “The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him **Immanuel**,” which means “God is with us.”

—Matthew 1:22-23

## GOD REVEALS HIS NAME IN SCRIPTURE

### MATTHEW 1:18–23

*Open your personal Bible translation and read the same passage. Make note when you see the name **IMMANUEL**.*

<sup>18</sup>The birth of **Yeshua** Christ took place in this way. His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly.

<sup>20</sup>Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The

angel said to him, “Joseph, descendant of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you will name him **Yeshua** [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

## UNDERSTANDING THE NAME

The name **Immanuel** (im-ma-nu-AIL) first appears in Isaiah 7:14 as part of a prophetic word that Isaiah spoke to King Ahaz of Judah (the southern kingdom) at a time when Aram and Israel (the northern kingdom) had formed a coalition against Assyria. The prophet Isaiah counseled Ahaz not to join in their uprising against Assyria, he urged Ahaz to trust in the Lord. Then the prophet invited Ahaz to ask the Lord for a sign to confirm the prophetic word, but the king refused.

In response to Ahaz's refusal to trust God, Isaiah proclaimed: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**." Isaiah 7:14 NIV

Matthew's gospel recalls Isaiah's prophecy, applying it to the child who would soon be born to Mary (Matthew 1:22–23). The sign given hundreds of years earlier was meant for all God's people. In fact, the Bible is nothing if not the story of God's persistent desire to dwell with his people. In Jesus, God succeeded in a unique way, becoming a man in order to save the world not from the outside, but from the inside. **Immanuel**, God with us, to rescue, redeem, and restore our relationship with him.

## CONNECTING TO THE NAME

1. What does this title of Jesus reveal about his nature?
2. How have you experienced Immanuel — God being with you in your life thus far? See if you can recall a specific time in your life when God seemed especially near or think about all the small signs of his presence in your life.

3. When have you struggled to believe that God is living up to his name? That he truly is with you?
  
4. Matthew begins and ends his gospel (see Matthew 28:20) with the promise that God is with us. How would your life be different if you began and ended each day with the firm belief that God is with you?
  
5. Jesus said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (see Hebrews 13:5). How should this truth affect your perspective, especially in difficult times?
  
6. Describe times in your life when you have not been with God. How might this have affected your experience of Immanuel?

## PRAYING A PASSAGE WITH GOD'S NAME

Thank God for his persistence in pursuing you. Ask him to increase your confidence in his desire to be with you. Focus on the meaning of the name Immanuel, God with us, as you read Psalm 139:7–10.

Where can I go to get away from your ***Ruach***?

Where can I run to get away from you?

<sup>8</sup>If I go up to heaven, you are there.

If I make my bed in hell, you are there.

<sup>9</sup>If I climb upward on the rays of the morning sun

or land on the most distant shore of the sea where the  
sun sets,

<sup>10</sup>even there your hand would guide me

and your right hand would hold on to me.

## PRAYING THE NAME **IMMANUEL** FOR MYSELF

Look up and read: John 15:9–12

How can you remain one with Immanuel? In his conversation with his disciples just before his death, Jesus assures them that obedience allows them to live in his love. Ask God to lead you into deeper obedience.

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### PROMISES FROM **IMMANUEL**

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to **Elohim**, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup>**Elohim** answered, “I will be with you. And this will be the proof that I sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, all of you will worship **Elohim** on this mountain.”

—Exodus 3:11–12

<sup>20</sup>Teach them to do everything I have commanded you.

“And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.”

—Matthew 28:20

### FOR DEEPER STUDY

Read the following passages, considering the name **IMMANUEL** and how its meaning relates to the context of the passage.

Genesis 28:15

Exodus 3:11–12

Joshua 1:5–9

Isaiah 8:10

Matthew 28:20

John 14:15–21

1 Corinthians 3:16

Hebrews 13:5–6

# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου *TO PHOS TOU KOSMOU*

According to Jewish tradition, one of the names for the Messiah is “Light.” How fitting, then, that Jesus is called the “light of the world.” John’s gospel portrays Jesus as the light that vanquishes the darkness brought on by sin—a darkness that ends in death. Christ has opened the eyes of a sin-darkened world to the truth of the gospel. We who believe in him have moved from darkness to light, from death to life. When we pray to Jesus as the Light of the world, let us remember that we are calling on the one who was so determined to draw us into his light that he spent nine months in the darkness of his mother’s womb in order to become one of us. Let us ask Jesus, our Light, to make us shine with his reflected glory.





## KEY SCRIPTURE

**Yeshua** spoke to the Pharisees again. He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark.”

—John 8:12

## GOD REVEALS HIS NAME IN SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1:3–9, JOHN 8:12

Open your personal Bible translation and read the same passage. Make note where you read the word **LIGHT**.

Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him.

He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.

The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.

God sent a man named John to be his messenger. John came to declare the truth about the

light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light.

The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world.

**Yeshua** spoke to the Pharisees again. He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark.”

τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου

## UNDERSTANDING THE NAME

The Hebrew Scriptures are full of images that link God with light—pillars of fire, burning lamps, consuming fire. Such images are often associated with God’s nearness or his presence. John’s gospel portrays Jesus as the embodiment of the divine light, a light so powerful that it cannot be overcome by the darkness of sin and death. Though Satan tries to disguise himself as an angel of light, he is light’s opposite—the prince of darkness.

The phrase **“to phos tou kosmou”** (to FOHS tou KOS-mou)—the light of the world—appears three times in the New Testament (Matthew 5:14; John 8:12; 9:5). It is a distinctive phrase spoken only by Jesus, who uses it twice to refer to himself and once to refer to his disciples, who are to reflect his light through their good deeds.

Just as natural light is essential to life on earth, Christ’s light is essential to unending life with God. Whoever believes in his light becomes like him, reflecting his brightness by walking in his light and obeying his commands.

## CONNECTING TO THE NAME

1. What do the terms “light” and “dark” mean to you?
2. Why do you think John’s gospel uses images of light and darkness to describe Jesus and the world’s response to him?
3. Have you ever lived through a time of darkness? Describe what it felt like.
4. Have you experienced Jesus as light? If so, how?
5. In Matthew 5:14 Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” In what ways have you been or can you be a “light-bearer” in places of darkness around you?

6. First John 1:5 says, "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all (NIV)." What does this mean to you?

## PRAYING A PASSAGE WITH GOD'S NAME

Ask God to shine his light into the deepest and most hidden places of your heart. Pray that he will bring his light and truth into these places. Focus on the name *To Phos Tou Kosmou*, the Light of the World, as you read 1 John 1:5–7.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we heard from Christ and are reporting to you: God is light, and there isn't any darkness in him. <sup>6</sup>If we say, "We have a relationship with God" and yet live in the dark, we're lying. We aren't being truthful.

<sup>7</sup>But if we live in the light in the same way that God is in the light, we have a relationship with each other. And the blood of his Son **Yeshua** cleanses us from every sin.

### PRAYING THE NAME LIGHT OF THE WORLD FOR MYSELF

Look up and read: Ephesians 5:8–14

Ask the Lord to open your eyes and protect you from lies, especially the ones that you tell yourself. What lies have you believed but been able to renounce? What do you struggle to give completely over to the will of Jesus, to bring into the presences of Jesus and let him overcome?

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## PROMISES FROM THE “LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

The sun will no longer be your light during the day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon give you light,  
But **Yahweh** will be your everlasting light.  
Your **Elohim** will be your glory.

<sup>20</sup>Your sun will no longer go down,  
nor will your moon disappear.  
**Yahweh** will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of sadness will be over.

—Isaiah 60:19–20

<sup>22</sup>I did not see any temple in it, because the Lord God Almighty and the lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city doesn't need any sun or moon to give it light because the glory of God gave it light. The lamb was its lamp. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will be open all day. They will never close because there won't be any night there. <sup>26</sup>They will bring the glory and wealth of the nations into the holy city. <sup>27</sup>Nothing unclean, no one who does anything detestable, and no liars will ever enter it. Only those whose names are written in the lamb's Book of Life will enter it.

—Revelation 21:22–27

### FOR DEEPER STUDY

Read the following passages, considering the name the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** and how its meaning relates to the context of the passage.

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalms 27:1

Isaiah 60:2

Matthew 5:14–16

Luke 2:29–32

Acts 9:1–22

Romans 13:12

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Ephesians 5:8–10

Philippians 2:14–16

1 Peter 2:9–10

1 John 1:5–7

Revelation 2:1–7





# CHILD

יָלֵד

YELED

παῖς

PAIS

A child was always at the heart of the biblical covenant. Already in the garden of Eden God promised that Eve's offspring would crush the head of the serpent who beguiled her. Later God made a covenant with Abraham, promising that Sarah would bear him a child who would be the first of countless descendents. Then Isaiah spoke of a child who would be born of a virgin and be given the name "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." The New Testament tells of the fulfillment of that promise. Jesus presents children as the model for his followers to emulate. The only way to enter the kingdom is with the humility and trust of little children.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

So Joseph went from Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a Judean city called Bethlehem. Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there. Joseph went there to register with Mary. She had been promised to him in marriage and was pregnant.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn't any room for them in the inn.

—Luke 2:4-7

## GOD REVEALS HIS NAME IN SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:1–12

*Open your personal Bible translation and read the same passage. Make note where you see the word **CHILD**.*

At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census of the Roman Empire. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people went to register in the cities where their ancestors had lived.

So Joseph went from Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a Judean city called Bethlehem. Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there. Joseph went there to register with Mary. She had been promised to him in marriage and was pregnant.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of

cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn't any room for them in the inn.

Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. They were taking turns watching their flock during the night. An angel from the Lord suddenly appeared to them. The glory of the Lord filled the area with light, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city. This is how you will recognize him: You will find an infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."



## UNDERSTANDING THE NAME

Though the Israelites considered children a great blessing, children occupied the bottom rung of the social ladder. Entrusted with the solemn responsibility of teaching and disciplining them, parents were accorded nearly absolute authority. To be a child was to be powerless, dependent, subservient. Yet even little children and young infants could receive wisdom from God and their lips could praise him. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a child, or **yeled** (YEL-ed), who would one day be born of a virgin and sit on David's throne. Luke's gospel tells us that Mary, while she was yet betrothed, was expecting a child, or **pais** (PICE), and that she gave birth to him in Bethlehem.

## CONNECTING TO THE NAME

1. What images come to mind when you think of the child Jesus?
2. Why does Luke make a point of mentioning that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that he was Mary's son?
3. Why do you think God allowed his Son to be born under the shadow of scandal and in such humble circumstances and to be placed in a manger?
4. The Savior of the world, heralded by angels, came as a helpless, dependent, vulnerable child. Why do you think God chose this means of bringing us our Savior?

5. If Christ made himself vulnerable in order to win the world, what implications does this have for the way you live as his follower?
  
6. Why might God's plan offend some people or seem like "foolishness"? What obstacles did this plan pose for many who encountered Jesus? For those who encounter him today?
  
7. What elements of the gospel still strike you as "foolish," things that are easier to read about than put into practice?
  
8. Jesus said to his disciples, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (see Matthew 18:3–4). What does this admonition to become like a little child mean for your own life?

## PRAYING A PASSAGE WITH GOD'S NAME

Praise God who kept his centuries-long promise to send a child to save us. Focus on the name *Yeled*, Child, as you read Luke 1:39–45.

<sup>39</sup> Soon afterward, Mary hurried to a city in the mountain region of Judah.

<sup>40</sup> She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard the greeting, she felt the baby kick. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> She said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child that you will have. <sup>43</sup> I feel blessed that the mother of my Lord is visiting me. <sup>44</sup> As soon as I heard your greeting, I felt the baby jump for joy. <sup>45</sup> You are blessed for believing that the Lord would keep his promise to you."



## PRAYING THE NAME **CHILD** FOR MYSELF

Look up and read: Matthew 18:1–5

Jesus was the long-awaited Yeled, Child, who came for our sake. Ask him how you can be more childlike and trusting. Pray with these verses, and ask him to help you to believe in him in all circumstances.

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### PROMISES FROM JESUS, THE **CHILD**

<sup>14</sup> So **Yahweh Elohim** said to the snake, “Because you have done this,

You are cursed more than all the wild or domestic animals.

You will crawl on your belly.

You will be the lowest of animals as long as you live.

<sup>15</sup> I will make you and the woman hostile toward each other.

I will make your descendants

and her descendant hostile toward each other.

He will crush your head,

and you will bruise his heel.”

—Genesis 3:14–15

<sup>14</sup> So **Adonay** himself will give you this sign: A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel [God Is With Us].

—Isaiah 7:14

### FOR DEEPER STUDY

Read the following passages, considering the name **CHILD** and how its meaning relates to the context of the passage.

Isaiah 9:6–7

Luke 2:1–20; 9:48

1 Corinthians 1:18–31



# I AM

אֶהְיֶה or ἐγώ εἰμι  
EHYEH or EGO EIMI

In Jesus we have the richest, most vivid picture of God imaginable. No longer does God seem implacably remote, displeased with the world he has made. Instead, he bends toward us, sharing our weakness and shouldering our burdens. Through the perfect offering of his life he becomes our Way back to the Father. He is the true Vine in which we abide, bearing fruit for God's kingdom. He is the loving God who will never abandon us, but who will be present with us always, leading us to life eternal.

## KEY SCRIPTURES

Then Moses replied to **Elohim**, "Suppose I go to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The **Elohim** of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' What should I tell them?"

**Elohim** answered Moses, "**Ehyeh** Who **Ehyeh**. This is what you must say to the people of Israel: '**Ehyeh** has sent me to you.'"

—Exodus 3:13-14

The Jews said to **Jesus**, “You’re not even fifty years old. How could you have seen Abraham?”  
**Jesus** told them, “I can guarantee this truth: Before Abraham was ever born, I am.”

—John 8:57-58

## CHRIST REVEALS HIS NAME IN SCRIPTURE

EXODUS 3:13–14, JOHN 8:50–59

Open your personal Bible translation and read the same passages.  
 Make note where you read **EHYEH** or **I AM**.

Then Moses replied to **Elohim**, “Suppose I go to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The **Elohim** of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ What should I tell them?”

**Elohim** answered Moses, “**Ehyeh** Who **Ehyeh**. This is what you must say to the people of Israel: ‘**Ehyeh** has sent me to you.’”

I don’t want my own glory. But there is someone who wants it, and he is the judge. I can guarantee this truth: Whoever obeys what I say will never see death.”

The Jews told **Yeshua**, “Now we know that you’re possessed by a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets, but you say, ‘Whoever does what I say will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets have also died. Who do

you think you are?”

**Yeshua** said, “If I bring glory to myself, my glory is nothing. My Father is the one who gives me glory, and you say that he is your God. Yet, you haven’t known him. However, I know him. If I would say that I didn’t know him, I would be a liar like all of you. But I do know him, and I do what he says. Your father Abraham was pleased to see that my day was coming. He saw it and was happy.”

The Jews said to **Yeshua**, “You’re not even fifty years old. How could you have seen Abraham?”

**Yeshua** told them, “I can guarantee this truth: Before Abraham was ever born, I am.”

Then some of the Jews picked up stones to throw at **Yeshua**. However, **Yeshua** was concealed, and he left the temple courtyard.



## UNDERSTANDING THE NAME

When Moses first encountered God in the wilderness in the figure of a burning bush, he asked God to reveal his name. But the reply he received seemed only to add to the mystery of who God is. Instead of describing himself as the Living God or the Almighty God or the Everlasting God or the Creator God, the Lord instructed Moses, saying, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" In fact, the name "I am" is closely related to the four Hebrew consonants that make up the name *Yahweh*, the covenant name of God in the Old Testament. Though the exact meaning of this name is difficult to know with certainty, the Lord may have been revealing himself not only as the God who has always existed but also as the God who is always present with his people.

When Jesus was being attacked by the religious leaders who failed to recognize him as the Messiah, he shocked them not by claiming to be the Messiah but by identifying himself with *Yahweh*, saying: "Before Abraham was born, *I am*." Recognizing that Jesus was claiming to be divine, the scandalized religious leaders tried to stone him. In fact, John's gospel contains several self-descriptions of Jesus introduced by the emphatic expression *Ego Eimi* (e-GO ay-MEE), "I am."

I am the bread of life. (6:35)

I am the light of the world. (8:12)

Before Abraham was born, I am. (8:58)

I am the gate for the sheep. (10:7)

I am the good shepherd. (10:11)

I am the resurrection and the life. (11:25)

I am the way and the truth and the life. (14:6)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. (15:1)



Jesus emphatically described himself as the "resurrection and the life," "the way and the truth and the life," and the "true vine." Each of these images has something important to reveal to us about the character and purpose of Jesus Christ.

## CONNECTING TO THE NAME

1. Some scholars think that by saying "I am who I am," God was saying he would always be present with his people. How have you experienced God's faithful presence in your life?
2. Why do you think the religious leaders responded to the "good news" as though it were "bad news"?
3. What do Jesus' words teach us about his presence through time?
4. Before his crucifixion, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples, saying, "I am the way and the truth and the life." What is Jesus the way to?
5. In John 15:1–5 Jesus speaks of himself as the true vine and calls us to remain in him. What does it mean to "remain in the vine"? Think about your hardships in the light of "pruning."

## PRAYING A PASSAGE WITH GOD'S NAME

The power of Christ in this most vulnerable moment is astonishing. Feel the awe as you imagine Jesus, with all the power of God, allowing his enemies to take him captive. Focus on the name *Ego Eimi*, "I Am," as you read John 18:4–6.

<sup>4</sup> **Yeshua** knew everything that was going to happen to him. So he went to meet them and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

<sup>5</sup> They answered him, "**Yeshua** from Nazareth."

**Yeshua** told them, "I am he."

Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with the crowd. <sup>6</sup> When **Yeshua** told them, "I am he," the crowd backed away and fell to the ground.

### PRAYING THE NAME **I AM** FOR MYSELF

Look up and read: John 14:1–6

Jesus, the great I Am, is preparing a place for you, a place as real as he is. What do you hope that he—the way, the truth, and the life—has in store for you? It will be better than any of us can imagine.

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## PROMISES FROM THE GREAT I AM

<sup>21</sup>Martha told **Yeshua**, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask him.”

<sup>23</sup>**Yeshua** told Martha, “Your brother will come back to life.”

<sup>24</sup>Martha answered **Yeshua**, “I know that he’ll come back to life on the last day, when everyone will come back to life.”

<sup>25</sup>**Yeshua** said to her, “I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die. <sup>26</sup>Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?”

—John 11:21–26



### FOR DEEPER STUDY

*Read the following passages, considering the name **I AM** and how its meaning relates to the context of the passage.*

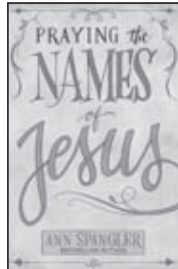
Matthew 16:15–16; 28:20

Mark 14:61–62

Revelation 1:8

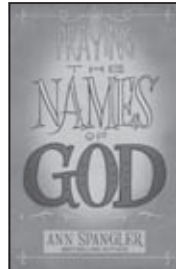
## Praying the Names of Jesus

*Ann Spangler*



## Praying the Names of God

*Ann Spangler*



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